

CLAIMS:

1. A trigger mechanism for a power tool, comprising:  
a chassis;  
5 a trigger mounted to the chassis for movement between  
ON and OFF position;  
an electrical switch mounted to the chassis for  
activation by movement of the trigger between the ON and  
OFF positions to close and open an electrical circuit; and  
10 a locking mechanism attached to the chassis, the  
mechanism being user-activated to unlock the trigger in  
the OFF position and trigger-activated to release the  
trigger in the ON position.
- 15 2. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
the trigger is mounted pivotally to the chassis.
3. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
including an activating rod extending from the trigger to  
20 the electrical switch.
4. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
the locking mechanism comprises a single locking member  
arranged to lock the trigger in both the ON and the OFF  
25 positions.
5. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the locking member comprises a locking pin extending through the trigger and the chassis.

6. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 5, wherein  
5 the locking mechanism includes a locking plate fixed to the trigger and having a slot through which the locking pin passes.

7. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
10 the locking pin has a narrow shank portion and a wide shank portion, and the slot of the locking plate has a width through which the narrow shank portion can pass to permit movement of the trigger and a widening at one end through which the wide shank portion is engageable to lock  
15 the trigger in the OFF position.

8. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 6, wherein the locking mechanism further includes a pushbutton secured to the locking pin and a spring co-acting between  
20 the pushbutton and the locking plate to bias the locking pin to lock the trigger in the OFF position and to release the trigger in the ON position.

9. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 8, wherein  
25 the locking pin has an end remote from the pushbutton, and the trigger has an aperture into which the head is engageable to lock the trigger in the ON position.

10. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 4, wherein the locking mechanism includes a spring biasing the locking member to lock the trigger in the OFF position and  
5 to release the trigger in the ON position.

11. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 10, wherein the locking member comprises a locking pin extending through the trigger and the chassis, the trigger including  
10 a pair of opposed side walls embracing the chassis and through which a shank of the locking pin extends, the shank having an end engageable with one trigger wall to lock the trigger in the OFF position and an opposite end engageable with the other trigger wall to lock the trigger  
15 in the ON position.

12. The trigger mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrical switch includes two pairs of terminals, each pair being for an individual electrical circuit that  
20 are openable and closable upon movement of the trigger.